

the baby—and it was in the counterfeit baby formula can, the scoop was too small.

So I said to the person at the Federal agency, "What difference would that have made?" He said ultimately the mother would have wondered, "What is going on? Why isn't my baby gaining weight as he was supposed to?"

Counterfeit formula, not enough nutritional value, an incorrect scoop. The Federal agency moved in and did its job. Which Federal agency? The Food and Drug Administration.

Most Americans do not know much about the Food and Drug Administration, but in terms of the health of our family, it may turn out to be one of the most important. Virtually all of the food, all of the drugs, our Nation's blood supply, and so many other things depend on the watchful eye of the Food and Drug Administration.

I did not come here tonight to just tell you an interesting and positive story about that agency but to tell you there are forces afoot in Washington, DC, and around the Nation that are literally attacking the Food and Drug Administration, and in fact some of them have gone so far as to suggest this agency should go out of business.

Now who in the world would do that? Well, it turns out it is a coalition of very conservative groups, radical right-wing groups that are coming together who want to turn out the lights at the Food and Drug Administration.

Who are these folks? Well, if you peel back the cover and look inside, they have all sorts of high-sounding names, names like the Competitive Enterprise Institute, Citizens for a Sound Economy; all of these different names. It turns out you look inside and you find out a very interesting story. The political groups that are trying to put the Food and Drug Administration out of business, the agency that is responsible for protecting us, turns out to include some of the most radical right-wing interests in America: the David Koch Foundation, the Koch Family Foundation, created from the oil fortunes of Fred Koch, founder of the extremist ultraconservative John Burch Society.

They put in \$1.7 million to close down the Food and Drug Administration. And a lot of companies that are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and are sick and tired of having that agency look over their shoulders, they want to close them down, too.

The Smith, Richardson Foundation, with money from the Vicks Vaporub and Smith Bros. Cough Drops, fortune, as well as the Merrell Pharmaceutical Company, contributed \$500,000 to this effort to close down the Food and Drug Administration.

The information I am sharing with you is published in the New York Times of last Sunday in an article by Phil Hiltz, in a special to the New York Times.

It reaches, unfortunately, to the House of Representatives, NEWT GING-

RICH, has called the Commissioner, the head of the Food and Drug Administration, David Kessler, Mr. GINGRICH has called him a thug and a bully. He says the Food and Drug Administration is a job killer.

It turns out that a foundation which the Speaker is using to finance his college video courses has received contributions from a number of businesses regulated by the same Food and Drug Administration. I think it is important that people all across America, when they hear folks criticize Federal agencies, Washington bureaucracies, stop and ask a few questions about which ones and why would you happen to be criticizing them? There are too many regulations coming out of this town, certainly, too many bureaucrats. We have to do our best to make sure that we keep those on the job who are doing the job properly, and those who are not have to be relieved of their responsibilities.

But be careful when you hear these charges made about the Food and Drug Administration. Recall for a moment that if that agency had not been on the job and doing it right, that counterfeit baby formula would have been sold, perhaps, across the Nation to the detriment of infants and to the detriment of the families who unwittingly would have been purchasing these goods.

This is not the first time the Food and Drug Administration stepped in. Do you recall a few years ago when the syringes were popping up in Diet Pepsi cans? The Food and Drug Administration stepped in. They proved it was a hoax. They saved the Pepsi Cola Company a lot of grief and put them back on their feet.

It is an important agency, and let us not be too quick to do away with them.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERBERT VENNEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Under the previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. SCOTT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History month, I rise to pay tribute to a prominent black community leader who played an important part in the local history of Virginia's Northern Neck area, the late Dr. Herbert L. Veney.

Like many physicians in rural areas, Dr. Veney was called upon to use his medical training in diverse ways. In addition to his family physician private practice, he served as consultant to a local mental health facility, medical director of a community nursing care facility, and as county medical examiner.

Dr. Veney was active in several organizations that supported human services, education and civil rights causes including the Richmond County Community Services Association, St. Pauls College Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society, the Black History

Museum Board and the NAACP—just to name a few.

One of Dr. Veney's unique contributions to the community was founding the Black Business and Professional Coalition. Chaired by Dr. Veney from 1985 until his death last October, this organization assists minority owned businesses in the northern neck area with management skills training in addition to providing college scholarships for minority youth.

Each year the BBPC holds an Unsung Heroes Awards Ceremony to honor the efforts of local citizens who have, in the words of one of its members, "made our way easier by blazing trails for others." And to raise funds for scholarships. These words aptly describe the man whose persistence and dedication to minority youth made this scholarship fund possible. Dr. Veney is the kind of unsung hero who serves as a role model not only to others in the black community, but to the community at large.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR], the minority whip, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, on the way over to the floor from my office, I happened to gaze out one of the Capitol windows, and full view there was quite a magnificent sight. It was a full winter moon that was highlighting a bank of clouds. And I thought to myself how wonderful it must be to see the Capitol outside, to see this structure, with people like myself and others who are in it and to bathe in the glory of this institution and what it represents. It was a stunning view, and I was moved by it this evening.

Mr. Speaker, we are beginning to see a crack with this Contract With America, or on America, however you want to phrase it. I know that my colleagues on this side of the aisle believe it is indeed the Contract With America. We believe, in fact, on our side of the aisle, there are some problems with what Republicans have proposed.

We saw it tonight. We passed a bill tonight called the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act of 1995.

Let me give you my perspective of what that is. We passed a major crime-fighting bill at the end of the last Congress, \$30 billion. The centerpiece of it was to put police officers on the streets of our cities and our villages, our county roads all across America. 100,000 police officers.

Republicans came here today, and their goal was to roll that back, cut the funding level, put it in a block grant and ship it off to local units of government or the State Government, primarily, and let them decide what to do with it.